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Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda*

TOPONYMIC DATA FILES: DATA ELEMENTS REQUIRED

Feature classes established for geographical names records on the Canadian Geographical Names Database

Paper submitted by Canada**

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Considerable work has been undertaken in Canada on generic and feature-type / entity terminology relevant to Canada's geographical names.

• For example, the glossary of *Generic Terms in Canada's Geographical Names / Géneriques en usage dans les noms géographiques du Canada* was published jointly by the Department of Secretary of State and Energy, Mines and Resources Canada in 1987. Annually, an advisory committee of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names reviews any additional generics in use in official names.

• Also, for the development of the Canadian Geographical Names Data Base, numeric codes and tables were established to identify the types of features being recorded. For this purpose over 800 distinct codes were established (e.g. for swamp, pré, cirque, millpond, paroisse, Northern Settlement). These numeric codes could be grouped to select information on groups of features (e.g. ice and snow features, populated places).

• With the development of the *Concise Gazetteer of Canada*, the release of names records on the World Wide Web, and the sale of digital toponymic data, the grouping of features into feature classes or categories was revisited. Users of the data were particularly anxious that populated places and adminstrative areas not be grouped together into umbrella categories. As a result, the following list of 38 terms and codes are now used nationally for the general breakdown of Canadian names records.

For more details of some types of features falling into each feature class, please refer to the report "Concise Gazetteer of Canada 1997", under agenda item 6(f).

Populated places / administrative areas

English		*Français*	
Code	Term	Code	Terme
PROV	Province	PROV	Province
TERR	Territory	TERR	Territoire
CITY	City	VIL1	Ville
TOWN	Town	VIL2	Ville
VILG	Village	VILG	Village
HAM	Hamlet	HAM	Hameau
MUN1	Other municipal / district area - major agglomeration	AZM1	Autre zone municipale / de district - agglomération majeure
MUN2	Other municipal / district area - miscellaneous	AZM2	Autre zone municipale / de district - divers
UNP	Unincorporated place	LNO	Lieu non organisé
IR	Indian Reserve	RI	Réserve indienne
GEOG	Geographical area	GÉOG	Zone géographique
PARK	Conservation area	PARC	Zone de préservation
MIL	Military area	MIL	Réserve militaire

Hydrographic and terrain features (alphabetized by English-language code)

English		*Français*	
Code	Term	Code	Terme
BAY	Bay	BAIE	Baie
BCH	Beach	PLAG	Plage
CAPE	Cape	CAP	Cap
CAVE	Cave	CAV	Caverne
CHAN	Channel	CHEN	Chenal
CLF	Cliff	ESC	Escarpement
CRAT	Crater	CRAT	Cratère
FALL	Falls	CHUT	Chutes
GLAC	Glacier	GLAC	Glacier
ISL	Island	ÎLE	Île
LAKE	Lake	LAC	Lac
MTN	Mountain	MNT	Mont
PLN	Plain	PLNE	Plaine
RAP	Rapids	RAP	Rapides
RIV	River	CDE	Cours d'eau
RIVF	River feature	EFLV	Entité fluviale
SEA	Sea	MER	Mer
SEAF	Sea feature	EMAR	Entité maritime
SEAU	Undersea feature	SMER	Entité sous-marine
SHL	Shoal	H-FD	Haut-fond
SPRG	Spring	SRCE	Source
VALL	Valley	VALL	Vallée

Other (alphabetized by the English-language code)

English		*Français*	
Code	Term	Code	Terme
FOR	Forest	FOR	Forêt
VEGL	Low vegetation	VÉGB	Végetation basse
MISC	Miscellaneous	DIV	Divers